

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2008

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert, Chairman
+Bob Baratko, City of Surprise
*Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe
Kyle Bogdon, DES/ACYF
*Paige Garrett, Quality of Life Community
Services, Inc
Joyce Gross, Town of Buckeye
Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix
Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix
Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging
Frances Delgado for Margarita Leyvas,
Maricopa County
Nanette Lubin for Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley
of the Sun United Way
Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix
Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix
Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council
Joy McClain, City of Tolleson
Sandra Mendez, DES/CSA

Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Vice
Chair
Martha Finnegan for Carol Sherer,
DES/DDD
Connie Stepnitz, City of Goodyear

OTHERS PRESENT

DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Barbara Hill, MCHSD-CSD
Theresa James, City of Tempe
Jill Story, MCHSD-CSD
Amy St. Peter, MAG
Shawna Tarboro, SWFHC

+Those members present by
audio/videoconferencing.
*Those members neither present nor
represented by proxy.

1. Open Meeting for Discussion

Chair Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert, welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1:01 p.m. and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made.

3. Approval of March 13, 2008 HSCT Meeting Minutes

Chair Harris-Morgan called for a motion to approve the March 13, 2008 meeting minutes. Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix, made a motion to approve the minutes. Connie, Stepnitz, City of Goodyear, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Legislative Update

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Nathan Pryor, MAG Senior Policy Planner, who provided an update on human services related legislative activity at the state and

federal levels. The update also included a report on proposed cuts to the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). Mr. Pryor began by referring to the FY09 SSBG budget saying The White House has proposed a \$500 million reduction in SSBG. This potentially means an approximate reduction of \$10.3 million for the State of Arizona based on population. The total appropriations were \$1.7 billion for FY07 and FY08 each year. He said the proposed \$1.2 billion appropriation for FY09 would be a reduction of 29.4 percent. Arizona's proposed allocation based on population for FY09 would be \$24.5 million. Mr. Pryor stated the FY09 budget is in doubt of being adopted until the next president is sworn into office. This means the budget would operate under continuing resolution which has been done before. He said the reaction to the White House proposal by the Chairman of the House Appropriations could be found at <http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/Budget2008Release.pdf>.

Mr. Pryor handed out a summary chart for the Arizona legislation. He noted given the timing of the legislative session, many, if not all, of the bills in the summary are unlikely to advance this session. The chart shows bills that have not been heard and all look to be inactive for the remainder of the session. He stated MAG staff will continue to monitor the bills until the conclusion of the legislative session.

MacFarlane requested to include political party affiliations with bill sponsors in the bill summary. MAG staff noted the request and will include this in future bill summaries. Mr. Knaut inquired on state shared revenue. Mr. Pryor commented there has been discussion to protect state shared revenues. Budget negotiations for FY 2008 are still ongoing, and with related discussion of FY 2009, it is difficult to say with any certainty if state shared revenues will be utilized to address any budget shortfalls.

5. Revision to Social Services Block Grant Allocations Recommendations

Chair Harris-Morgan stated the Arizona Department of Economic Security notified MAG on March 14, 2008 that a 19.722 percent cut proposed at the federal level to SSBG necessitates a revised allocation recommendation for locally planned dollars. The House and Senate have both rejected the proposed cut and it seems very unlikely the proposed cut will be approved. He said the Committee will consider the reduction plan that MAG has submitted in the past and recommend a FY09 reduction plan for approval.

Chair Harris-Morgan stated DES will still contract with agencies in July at the FY08 levels according to the recommendations approved earlier this year. Chair Harris-Morgan asked the Committee for a consensus to use last year's plan of reducing all services and target groups evenly. Ms. St. Peter noted the one exception is in the persons with developmental disabilities target group as the remaining funding would be collapsed into one service. Chair Harris-Morgan commented on the need to address the remaining funds from the pregnant teen category where funds were moved last month. He said one option is to reduce the new funding amounts in those services according to the same percent as the other services.

Chair Harris-Morgan stated the recommendation will need to be presented to HSCC for their recommendation next Tuesday, April 15, 2008. They are due to DES by May 16, 2008. The recommendations will be presented to the MAG Management Committee on May 14th and then to MAG Regional Council May 28th to take action and approve the recommendations. Ms. St. Peter said in previous years the Committee had recommended a plan A for level funding and a plan B to reflect the funding cuts. She added in the past only plan A was used and plan B would only be used if the funding reductions were implemented.

Mr. Matthews inquired if representatives present from DES had any input on the proposed recommendation. Martha Finnegan, DES-DDD, stated the recommendation was discussed last year and it was concluded this was the best use of the available funding. Mr. Bogdon, DES-ACYF, stated the across the board cut recommended last year is also the recommendation for this year. Ms. St. Peter stated in the last meeting it was recommended to move \$55,693 from the pregnant/parenting youth category, number 28 in the Adults, Families and Children target group, to the basic needs category in the same target group and all other services will remain the same. The recommendation is moving through the MAG approval process. Mr. Matthews noted the committee had discussed this issue at previous meetings to insure the shifting of funding did not affect clients.

Chair Harris-Morgan called for a motion to recommend approval of revised SSBG recommendation reflecting the proposed 19.722 percent cut. Ms. Marshall, City of Phoenix motioned in to recommend approval of implementing the proposed cut of 19.722 percent evenly across all four target groups with the reduction being applied evenly to all services with the exception of the service within the Persons with Developmental Disabilities target group. All remaining funding in this target group will be moved to the extended employment service. Mr. Matthews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Heat-Relief Planning Efforts

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Theresa James, City of Tempe; Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix; and Amy St. Peter, MAG; who offered a presentation on heat-relief planning efforts to assist homeless people and other vulnerable populations during the summer months. Chair Harris-Morgan stated a few years ago, the region received national attention when homeless people and older adults died due to continuous days of extreme heat. Since then many members of the community have coordinated efforts to ensure this does not happen again.

Ms. James began by stating heat relief plans are gearing up for this summer. The City of Tempe Housing Services, Tempe Community Action Agency and TEAM Ministries has scheduled training for the faith based community on April 28, 2008 at the Grace Community Church located at 1200 E South Avenue in Tempe. The goal is to reach out to faith-based communities to expand relief sites. She noted Amy Schwabenlander from Valley of the Sun United Way is also partnering on this event and invited members to attend.

Ms. James said April 25, 2008 will be the next Project Homeless Connect event. The event has been recognized as a national best practice model. Project Homeless Connect brings together agencies that provide services to the homeless population together in one place for the day. She stated over 150 attended previous events. The event will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Tempe. Ms. James commented this is a model that could be easily replicated to other cities.

Ms. Jonovich stated the City of Phoenix is planning for the launch of their heat relief program. She noted the first meeting was held with over 50 faith-based organizations attending. The faith-based groups will help with hydration and wellness checks. Last year, 133 cases of bottled water were collected. She stated the Mayor will hold a press conference on May 5, 2008 with a call to public for water donation. Many partners and media have come together to in support of getting the word out. She said there has been a coordinated effort with MAG on producing maps of respite areas and donation sites. City-wide training is provided on wellness check for clients and the city's public information officer has helped to get the word out. Ms. Jonovich said on high heat days there is coordination with the fire departments in heat relief efforts. She stated the second meeting on April 24, 2008 will focus on educating outreach teams and the national weather services providing information. She added the Salvation Army will also set up heat stations. Ms. Jonovich invited members to attend.

Frances Delgado, Maricopa County, stated Maricopa County is also in the process of heat relief planning and introduced Barbara Hill to provide an update. Ms. Hill stated every year a heat stress presentation is give to drivers, dispatcher and STS staff. The plan includes heat welfare checks on the vulnerable and disabled population. Workforce development sites and Community Action Program offices will have resource information on water and distribution sites. Heat announcements are filtered through the department. Last year's water drive was donated to CASS. Home-delivering meal drivers complete well checks and reported any concerns. She stated outcomes include over 60 client contacts were made during heat watches and warnings. Utility assistance was provided to 49,000 households and 89 air conditioners were repaired. The plan for this year is to continue the effort and to coordinate with other agencies.

Ms. St. Peter commented the major responsibility of MAG is developing the hydration and respite maps. She asked members to let MAG know if there are other agencies or sites that should be included on the maps. Ms. St. Peter added MAG can provide resource information and technical assistance to help communities offer these services. Ms. Lubin inquired if the hydration sites have been listed on AZ211. Ms. St. Peter stated last year they were posted on the site and will make sure they are on again this year. She added as soon as the information has been collected the maps will be available for distribution as resource material.

7. 2008 MAG Conference on Housing and Transportation Human Services Coordination Report

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Ms. St. Peter, MAG, who presented a report on the conference, held April 8, 2008 that featured local and national best practices on housing and transportation coordination. Ms. St. Peter thanked everyone who attended and noted she had been in valley for 13 years and this was most diverse conference. The nearly 300 people who attended at the Desert Willow Conference Center consisted of elected officials, community members, nonprofits agencies and representatives from national agencies. The process has been a learning experience to ensure planning for future events are accessible for all populations.

Ms. St. Peter stated there were 14 workshops throughout the day, with three national and one local expert speaking at the luncheon plenary. She stated in the last plenary session, attendees were asked what impacted them the most of the day and what strategies could be implemented. She said one outcome will be a report to offer models to replicate in the community.

8. Comments from the Committee

Ms. Lubin commented the Valley of the Sun United Way is partnering with the United Phoenix Fire Fighters Association in the Adopt-a-Pool-Fence program. The program will provide eligible families with a donated pool fence. This year the program is available region-wide. For more information, please go to www.saverkids.org or call Marin Davies at 602-631-4843.

Chair Harris-Morgan thanked the committee members for their time and commitment in attending meetings to ensure quorum is met to take action on agenda items.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:0 p.m. **The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.**